

HABS MD-294

Whitehall, Whitehall Creek, *near Annapolis*
Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

HABS
MD.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DISCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
John H. Scarff - District Officer,
1012 Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md.

Addendum to

Whitehall
St. Margaret's Road
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-294

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ADDENDUM TO
WHITEHALL

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HABS No. MD-294
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Location: St. Margaret's Road, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County,
Maryland

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scarlett, Jr.

Present Use: Residence

Date of Easement: December 29, 1975

Statement of
Significance: Constructed in 1765 for Horatio Sharpe, Governor of
Maryland, Whitehall is one of America's foremost Georgian
structures. Hugh Morrison called it "one of the most
interesting and important houses of the eighteenth century."
Overlooking the Chesapeake and enhanced on the landside
by a series of ha-ha's, Whitehall has a giant two story
pedimented entrance portico supported by four fluted
columns with Corinthian capitals. The design of the rich
architectural detail has been attributed to the young
William Buckland.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Whitehall construction began in 1765 and was completed about 1769.
2. Architect: The drawings for Whitehall, owned by Mr. Scarlett, are unsigned. It is believed that William Anderson was the principal architect. William Buckland, architect of Gunston Hall and the Hammond-Harwood House, has been credited with the design of the rich architectural detail. He may have been involved in Whitehall's construction as well. The detail was executed at Buckland's workshop in Annapolis or Virginia.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Whitehall was built for Governor Horatio Sharpe. When he sailed to England in 1773 and never returned, the property passed to his secretary, John Ridout. Ridout married Mary Ogle, daughter of Governor Samuel Ogle. She was the woman for whom Sharpe was said to have built Whitehall, but never married. Ridout descendants farmed the land until 1895 when Mrs. John P. Story of Washington, D.C., purchased Whitehall with sixty acres. Francis P. Garvan bought Whitehall in 1929 and intended to offer it as a summer White House for the President. In 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scarlett purchased Whitehall; they spectacularly restored the house and landscape.
4. Original plans and construction: Whitehall has been restored to as close to original state as possible. Mr. Scarlett has used drawings and extant fragments to reconstruct Whitehall as it was

before 1800, the suspected alteration date. (The structure is described in detail in Part II).

5. Additions and alterations: The central block had a second story and hipped roof added later, probably by Mr. John Ridout to provide bedrooms over the drawing rooms. The newer brick was visible on the masonry facade until Mr. Scarlett restored the original facade. The hipped roof of the renovation simply covered the original gable roof. It is not known when the wings with connecting passageways were constructed. The wings do appear, along with the semi-octagonal fortification of ha-ha's, on an early drawing.

6. Historical events and personages:

Horatio Sharpe was born near Hull in Yorkshire in 1718, the youngest of a family of nine boys. In 1745 he was commissioned captain in the marines and shortly afterward lieutenant-colonel of foot in the West Indies. It was this experience in military and colonial affairs that enabled his brother William, as guardian to the young proprietor, Frederick Calvert, to obtain for him the governorship of the province of Maryland. The new Lieutenant-Governor arrived in Annapolis on August 10, 1753, on the Molly, and settled down in this elegant little capital city, described as the richest and most luxurious upon the Continent, to a task much to his liking for which he seemed extremely well fitted.

By the spring of 1754, the French had invaded the Ohio River in large force, having engaged the Chippeways, Ottaways and Arundacks to take up the hatchet against His Majesty's subjects settled there. King George despatched a commission to Governor Sharpe "appointing him Commander-in-Chief of all the forces that are, or may be raised to defend the frontiers of Virginia and the neighboring colonies."

With the close of the French and Indian War in 1763, the Governor once again found time for the things that were nearest his heart. Gardening was his great love, ...he wanted the privacy and freedom of the extensive lawns, walks and parks he had known at home at England. The old glebe plantation, Whitehall, almost surrounded as it was by water and little more than a half hour from town by boat, suited his purpose admirably. Since this was entailed church property, it would require his influence with the Legislature to have laws passed setting aside the terms of Colonel Greenberry's will. So certain he was that this would be done, he bought the adjacent land in the fall of 1763, almost a year prior to his settlement for Whitehall. In all likelihood plans and materials for his new place had been worked up during the interim, and the house was under way by the fall of 1764...

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, May 9, 1960.
Historic American Buildings Survey, 6 photographs, 1936.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortlandt Van Dyke.
American Georgian Architecture. Bloomington: Indiana
University Press, 1952. Plates 50-51. pp. 35-36

Kimball, Fiske. Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies
and of the Early Republic. New York: Dover, 1966. pp.
77-79, 100-101, 106, 117, 1220, 291-292.

Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture. New York: Oxford
University Press, 1952. pp. 386-390.

Scarlett, Charles, Jr. "Governor Horatio Sharpe's Whitehall."
Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. 46 1951. pp. 8-26.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: Whitehall, a middle Georgian design, consists of a central block with dramatic giant portico, and two closed arcades which lead to two identical wings. The symmetrical design was accentuated by a complex fortification system on the land side which included bastions, ditches, and ha-ha's.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond with white oyster shell, grapevine mortar is used throughout Whitehall. The nine inch long bricks may have been baked at Whitehall; fragments have been found all over the property. A three-brick corbelled belt course is visible on the land side to recall the ground level of the principal facade. The south, or principal, facade has a water table.
2. Chimneys: Whitehall has four symmetrically placed brick chimneys. The larger two are located at the outside ends of the central block and have corbelled caps. Two smaller chimneys are placed at the center of the hip roofed wings and also have corbelled brick caps.
3. Porches, Balustrades, Stairs: The giant two story portico is supported by four beautifully carved, fluted Corinthian columns made of white cedar logs. The columns rest on sandstone and molded brick bases. The pediment, whose interior dimensions are articulated by dentils, now bears a carved coat of arms of the state of Maryland. Two elaborately carved modillions are placed at the junction of the wall and portico ceiling. Two alternating sizes of wood quoins, painted white, accentuate the projecting corner of the portico. The bricks which actually link the portico to the central block are painted white. The cornice consists of egg and dart molding, dentils, and block modillions.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: The principal entry of the south facade is located at the central bay. Fluted Corinthian pilasters support a full entablature and pediment ornamented by dentils, bead and reel molding, and block modillions. A fanlight with graceful muntins is placed above the large door.

The main entry at the north facade of the main block is also located at the central bay and is on axis with the door of the south facade. It is possible to see the Chesapeake from the north entry. Although the treatment is simplified, the door has elements which echo the elaborate south doorway: fluted pilasters, identical fanlight, entablature, and pediment. A round headed door with ten lights is located directly below the north facade entry to the first floor. This door fits

into the stair and leads directly to the basement.

- b. Windows: Windows are double hung sash types throughout Whitehall. The six-over-six windows beneath the portico were reported to be the largest panes of glass in the colonies. Their elaborately carved window heads have block modillions, bead and reel, scotia, and fascia moldings. Flemish bond brickwork surrounds the sides of the windows and is painted white. The central block has seven bays with six windows per side. These windows are double hung sash with nine-over-nine lights and also have painted white brick around them, including the lintels. The ground level windows of the north side of the central block are double hung sash with six-over-six lights.

The fenestration of the wings and arcades is treated symmetrically as well. Each wing has four double hung sash windows with nine-over-nine lights on the north and south facades.

The arcades which link the wings to the central block have five enclosed arches. Each arch has a round head with three lights and rubbed and gauged brick voussoirs. The north side has five bullet openings covered with wood; the arcade is located at ground level.

5. Roof: The central block has a gable roof at the portico and two tin hip roofs at either side. The gable roof is covered with light grey slate. The arcade roofs are concealed by a low brick balustrade. Both wings have light grey slate covered hip roofs.

This documentation was donated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The historical and architectural data was compiled by Susan Stein in 1977, and edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Eleni Silverman, Architectural Historian, HABS, in June 1984.

ADDENDUM TO:
WHITEHALL
1915 Whitehall Road
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001